LOK SABHA

Thursday, October 23, 2008/Kartika 1, 1930 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Sir, I have given a notice. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Have I ever denied any of you from making any point?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: May I make the position clear?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seats for once. Please take your seats.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: No. I do not allow anything. Too much has been done!

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Everything is important. Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: This is the first week. On the first day, unfortunately we had to adjourn because of the obituary on the death of some of our sitting Members. Today is the fourth day of this week. We have not had even one question taken up; not a single matter could be taken up or discussed; you have very important matters.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please show little respect. This has become fashion nowadays. If you think that you are strengthening the cause of democracy, it is for you to decide. I am on my way out. Do not think that it will influence me. The House should remain.

But what I am requesting is, make some introspection. Every day, one second past 11 a.m., commotion starts; I am making repeated appeals. If there is anything called truth, please go through it and bear me out. I will allow all the subjects to be discussed. In the first meeting of the leaders, I promised; I said that there were five days and you could select five important subjects; I would allow all those five subjects to be discussed, each one every day. Whatever I could allow, I shall allow. I can challenge – can anybody show that I deliberately did not allow any matter which could be raised? Naturally I will be targeted, but I do not mind. My only reply is, please do some self-introspection. Please consider yourself, whether all of us are contributing to the functioning of this House. If I am wrong, you can show me. I am not an aspirant for anything; personally you can take it that I am out, for all purposes. But I want this institution, which I am associated with for nearly 40 years, to remain; every day, I am going back with lot of pain and agony from this House, but I want this House to remain, this House to function and democracy should be strengthened.

Tell me which issue I have refused. Every day, you are getting up, not listening to me; all of you are coming here; if I do not take strong action, then I am criticised. If I take one very mild action, that is also criticised. Last time, when I sent the names of some of my colleagues here to the Privileges Committee, all the parties came to me and they assured me – both the Leader of the Opposition and the Leader of the House – in the presence of everybody, that we shall cooperate with the Chair and the House, but that was only unfortunately for the sake of statement. What to do? I can tell you that this is the worst period of my life, if it has any relevance for this House.

Shri Acharia, please wait for the Question Hour to be over. There is a time for raising those matters. I have never said no. You never gave me an opportunity to say no.

Let us take up Question Hour. I beg of all of you, to please proceed according to our well-established procedure. After the Question Hour, I will take up these important issues, which are well-established

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Including Adjournment Motion.

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, including the notice of Adjournment Motion. Why not? You know that there is a procedure for making an Adjournment Motion; I do not have to tell you.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY (Puri): You should allow us also during the 'Zero Hour'.

MR. SPEAKER: I said that. Let me get an opportunity to do that.

Let us take up the Question Hour now.

11.01 hrs.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

MR. SPEAKER: Q. No. 81

Shri Pralhad Joshi—Not present.

Shri Shailendra Kumar—Not present.

Shri Harin Pathak, Question No. 82.

Railway Crossings for various Development Projects

*82. SHRI HARIN PATHAK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any time frame has been laid down for grant of permission for railway crossings for the purpose of various development projects;

(b) if so, whether several proposals seeking permission for railway crossings including those for various water supply projects are pending with Railway Authorities;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the time by which the pending proposals will be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (DR. R. VELU): (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Statement

(a) to (d) Railways receive requests from various agencies/individuals for crossings for various purposes. Permission is granted only if the proposal is complete, feasible, does not affect safety of trains, and only after the party has deposited the required fees and met with all the procedural requirements. As the requesting parties take their own time in complying with the above requirements, no target time can be set by railways for granting approval to the proposals. There are a total of 1423 number of proposals for permission of railway crossings for various purposes including 431 number of proposals for water supply projects, which have been received by railways, and are pending disposal at different stages. Zone-wise details regarding the number of proposals for permission of railway crossings for various purposes including those which have been referred back to the parties are as given below:

Railway Zones	Number of Proposals
Central	1
Eastern	1
East Central	0
East Coast	8
Northern	272
North Central	63
North Eastern	21
Northeast Frontier	1
North Western	72
Southern	162
South Central	63
South Eastern	3
Southeast Central	33
South Western	54
Western	570
West Central	99
Total	1423

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: Mr. Speaker, Sir, if you see the answer which the Minister has given, the fourth line of the answer says:

> "As the requesting parties take their own time in complying with the above requirements, no target time can be set by railways for granting approval to the proposals."